

Approved 1-28-91  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR DON SALLEE at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on January 22, 1991 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State

Harlan Priddle, Office of the President of the Senate

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Don Sallee called the meeting to order noting the absence of staff who had been released to serve on another committee. The chairman told members that Ron Thornburgh from the office of the Secretary of State and Harlan Priddle, Office of the President of the Senate would be speaking to the committee concerning the report from the Select Commission on Ethical Conduct.

The Chairman announced the committee would receive requests for introduction of bills on Monday, January 28 and Tuesday, January 29, 1991.

In answer to a question from a member, the chairman noted there were some major issues to be discussed and which would eventually be assigned to subcommittees for further consideration.

Ron Thornburgh shared some of the reasoning behind the various conclusions and recommendations found in the report of the Select Commission on Ethical Conduct. He told committee members the commission limited their discussions to four issues, (1) Conflict of Interest, (2) Campaign Finance, (3) Lobbying Regulation and (4) Administration. A proposed "Model Law" which was developed by the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws was presented to the Commission and compared to Kansas law. The final draft was adopted in the December, 1990 meeting.

Mr. Thornburgh noted the Commission was advised that a "Statement of Guiding Principles" would be helpful to the court, enabling them to be aware of the intent of the actual law.

Mr. Thornburgh further noted it was necessary for the Legislature and those in public service to maintain service to as high a level as possible. A second issue was the development of as nearly uniform arena as possible to encourage as many candidates as possible.

The area of conflict of interest was discussed point by point by Mr. Thornburgh. A member questioned the reimbursement for time for those other than lawyers and Mr. Thornburgh said discussion had included a method of pre-approval with certain standards being promulgated.

Harlan Priddle told committee members he saw several areas of particular interest. First, that the Kansas Legislature is a citizen legislature which is part time and everyone wants to elect the best candidates. Secondly, the gift issue would appear to require special consideration as some gifts which were offered in the manner of good will or hospitality. He further noted a great deal of tact was needed to avoid an affront or being offensive to the one presenting the gift. The issue of hospitality

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

room 529-N, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on January 22, 19 91

is one that needs further consideration since it is definitely a needed function.

Mr. Priddle stated that, concerning the issue of adoption of a statement of intent and purpose for the state conflict of interest laws, this should be a charter or authorization to aid the Public Disclosure Committee. Other issues needing consideration were suggested, that of subpoena and censure powers.

A member noted that having served on the Commission and having talked with a number of legislators several concerns evolved. First, failure to pass any of the recommendations offered could be perceived by the media and others as totally unacceptable. Secondly, the whole issue will appear to be so powerful it could collapse in and of itself. Members were urged, for their own best interest, not to become burdened with either perception.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE 1-22-91

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

L. Thornburgh  
Stanley Sedell  
Michelle Bisler  
Michael Wolf  
Jeff Russell  
Craig Grant  
Teresa Floerching  
Tom Brancat  
Chuck Tilman  
Carol Williams  
Jana Atchison

SOS  
Office of Sen. C.  
John Peterson + Committee  
Common Cause  
UNITED Tel.  
H-NEA  
State Demographer - Div of Budget  
K-NEA  
K-NEH  
KPDC  
KPDC